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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 SSM-05
ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00
FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-04 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00
ACDA-10 PRS-01 PA-02 /145 W
---------- 080178 /46
R 211232Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6636
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USOECD PARIS
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS JIDDA 8185

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI PRESS ON OPEC DECISION

1. SAUDI PRESS COVERAGE OF OPEC PRICE DECISION, IN ADDITION TO FEATURING STORIES FROM WORLD PRESS STRESSING MODERATION OF SAUDI-UAE POSITION, HAS INCLUDED SEVERAL ARTICLES IN WHICH SAUDI DETERMINATION TO STAND BY ITS DOHA DECISION WAS EMPHASIZED. YAMANI AND OTHER SAG FIGURES
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ALSO QUOTED EXTENSIVELY DENYING THAT SAG STAND THREATENS OPEC BREAKUP. MOST ARTICLES ALSO NOTE THE PRICE DECISION LINKED TO SAUDI POLITICAL EXPECTATIONS FROM U.S. AND EUROPE, IN CONTEXT OF ME SETTLEMENT AND NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

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2. UKAZ OF DECEMBER 18 RAN LONG CORRESPONDENT'S ARTICLE DESCRIBING THE DOHA NEGOTIATIONS IN A WAY DESIGNED TO SHOW EXTREMISM OF OTHER OPEC MEMBERS' DEMAND FOR 25 PERCENT PRICE RISE, AND ISOLATION OF SAG IN FIGHTING FOR LOWER RISE WHICH WOULD NOT HARM WORLD AND SAUDI ECONOMIES. ARTICLE QUOTES YAMANI TO EFFECT ATHAT SAUDI REJECTION OF 10PERCENT PRICE RISE, WAS REJECTION OF "OPEC CONTROL" OF SAUDI BENCHMARK CRUDE PRICE. YAMANI ALSO TOLD UKAZ CORRESPONDENT THAT SAUDI OIL PRODUCTION INCREASE OF ONE OR TWO MILLON B/D "WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO ATTAIN THE BALANCE WE ARE LOOKING FOR IN OIL PRICES."

3. AL MADINA OF DECEMBER 19 STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SAUDI OIL IN WORLD MARKET, CLAIMING IT REPRESENTED 30 PERCENT OF WORLD CONSUMPTION, AND SAID THAT SAG INTENDS "TO IMPOSE MODERATION IN OIL PRICES" AND WILL RAISE ITS PRODUCTION TO 11.7 MILLION B/D IF NECESSARY. NEWSPAPER SAYS SAG EXPECTS U.S. AND EUROPE, IN RETURN, TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO AS A "LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND TO CREATE POSITIVE RESULTS IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

4. AL BILAD MADE POINT IN DECEMBER 19 COLUMN (INTER ALIA) THAT SAUDI STAND AT DOHA HAD BEEN PARTLY MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO IMPROVE IMAGE OF ARABS IN WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION. PORTER

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